

Fiscal Note

Fiscal Services Division



HF 2465 – Emergency Mass Notification Systems (LSB 5256HZ)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

House File 2465 establishes a Mass Notification and Emergency Messaging System Fund under the control of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD). Interest earned on the Fund balance remains in the Fund. Any ending balance, including General Fund appropriations, remain in the Fund and will carry forward to the next fiscal year. This Bill states it is legislative intent that the Mass Notification and Emergency Messaging System will receive an annual appropriation to ensure that the System functions throughout the State on an ongoing basis. This Bill also specifies that information collected by State departments and agencies for public dissemination of emergency or routine information are considered confidential public records.

Background

- The Governor recommended an increase of \$400,000 for the HSEMD in FY 2015 for the implementation of a statewide Mass Communication System that could be used by all 99 counties to disseminate information simultaneously during emergency situations and disaster recovery.
- In early 2013, the HSEMD issued a Request for Information (RFI) to collect statewide system proposals and cost estimates. A [Request for Proposal](#) (RFP) was issued on December 13, 2013, and the closing date was February 3, 2014. The successful vendor will be announced on June 1, 2014. The initial contract period is July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2019, with up to five annual one-year extensions. The Department is seeking proposals from vendors that can provide a statewide public mass notification and emergency messaging system that will allow both the FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) messaging and conventional mass notification for both emergency and nonemergency messaging. The System will be able to notify the public via phone, text, e-mail, social media, TTY/TDD¹ and IPAWS.
- HF 2465 creates a Mass Notification and Emergency Messaging System Fund under the control of the HSEMD, and permits the Department to employ additional staff necessary to administer and operate the System.
- There are currently 53 counties that utilize some type of mass notification and emergency messaging system at a total cost of \$637,000 and 46 counties use no system or a free system including NOAA² weather radios, outdoor warning systems, and the local media to issue warnings.

¹ TTY = text phone for hearing impaired

TDD = telecommunication device for the deaf

² NOAA = National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Assumptions

- The System will be under the control of the HSEMD. The Department has sole discretion over the System and may provide access to the System for use at the county and local level.
- The Department is requesting an annual, ongoing appropriation of \$400,000 to be maintained in a separate Fund. Of this amount, \$300,000 will be used for the vendor contract and \$100,000 will be used to administer the Program.
- Counties currently utilizing some type of mass notification system will have the option to use the State system, freeing up funds at the local level but usage is not mandated.

Fiscal Impact

[HF 2465](#) indicates an intent to provide an annual General Fund appropriation. It is anticipated that the cost will be limited to the amount appropriated. As of April 9, 2014, the funding was provided to the HSEMD in the Justice System Appropriations Bill as passed by the House; however, the funding was not included in the Justice System Appropriations Bill in the Senate.

Source

Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

April 9, 2014

The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
